
World Health Organization
148th session of the Executive Board, 18–26 January 2021

Item 5 - Global Action on Patient Safety

Thank you chair.

I would like to welcome the statement made by the United States of America this morning. The US has an important leadership role, especially on Global Health. Israel is looking forward to enhance our ongoing work in the multilateral arena, especially on global health challenges together with the US as well as with other partners and with the World Health Organization.

On this agenda item, we wish to thank the director general and the secretariat for the third and final draft of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030.

The Global Patient Safety Action Plan, which is built on six guiding principles and seven strategic objectives, is a solid basis from which we would be able to promote patient safety globally. We wish to commend the secretariat for facilitating an inclusive consultation process, and for incorporating our comments into the third version of the draft.

When developing and implementing policies and action plans on patient safety, strong emphasis should be given to two main elements:

1. Patient's safety, as well as the safety of the healthcare providers themselves, should not be limited only to physical conditions. For example, besides physical hazards such as exposure to body fluids from needle sticks, their safety also includes a safe work environment, proper workload and adequate training. In addition to that, we recommend routine evaluation and intervention of burnout. Therefore, we see high priority in supporting people's mental health, and in particular through effective treatment of trauma, and this should be included as part of the broad framework on Patient Safety.
2. While Patient Safety plans should be developed in line with national plans and priorities as part of regulation, it is also crucial to develop and adjust the plans

according to the specific needs and views of clinicians, patients and institutions requirements and work environment. For example, we believe that regulation created in the perspective of 'one size fits all' should individually approach the needs of clinicians, institutions and patients. In this regard we note that there is an advantage to implementing the patient safety plans by engaged leadership, including head of departments, head of clinics etc., is a necessary condition for achieving patient safety.

Chair,

We wish to learn more on the establishment of a formal mechanism for reporting on Action Plan's indicators, at the global, regional and national levels. In particular, we wish to learn more on the indicators that will be used and how they will be measured.

I thank you for your attention.